



For Immediate Release: Thursday, August 19, 2004

Contact: Rose Lynch (608) 266-6753

Web Audio: http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dwd/newsreleases/multimedia/ui_081904.mp3

JULY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

***Despite Some Improvement, More Than 76,000 Manufacturing Jobs Lost Over Past Four Years,
and 147,000 Workers Still Need Jobs***

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's preliminary unemployment rate for July is 4.6 percent compared to 5.1 percent in June and 5.7 percent in July 2003. Despite gaining 12,000 manufacturing jobs in the past year, the state is still more than 76,000 manufacturing jobs short of where it was four years ago, and more than 147,000 Wisconsin workers still need jobs.

"Governor Doyle has a plan for economic development in Wisconsin and that plan is working," said Secretary Gassman. "Wisconsin is continuing to do better than our neighbors at creating jobs, while the Bush Administration still doesn't have a plan to improve the national economy. Even in Wisconsin, we still have a long way to go -- particularly when it comes to manufacturing."

The national rate for July 2004 was 5.7 percent, compared to 5.8 percent in June 2004, and 6.3 percent for July 2003. The seasonally adjusted rate in Wisconsin for July is 4.7 percent compared to 5.0 percent in June and 5.8 percent in July 2003. The national seasonally adjusted rate for July 2004 is 5.5 percent, down slightly from the 5.6 percent for June 2004.

Wisconsin's job market, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics Survey, continues to show overall improvement. Total nonfarm wage and salary jobs for July 2004 are estimated at 2,846,400; up 48,800 over last year's job total for July and down 22,400 from the June figure. A reduction in jobs between June and July is a standard seasonal change for Wisconsin. The average drop is about 24,400; largely from summer employment decreases in local public school employment. Local public education was responsible for a reduction of 28,600 jobs statewide, while the private sector added 10,900 jobs.

The construction industry had 139,000 jobs for July, the highest July total on record. Construction added 4,800 jobs over the June total and was up 3,100 jobs over the July figure for 2003. May and June were slow for construction in Wisconsin due to very wet conditions.

The trade sector continues to show growth, particularly the wholesale trade. The 118,700 jobs in wholesale trade last month were an all time high for July.

July employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available August 25. This release also is available at www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi

-end-

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	NET CHANGE FROM				
	PRELIM. JUL 04	FINAL JUN 04	YEAR AGO JUL 03	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA					
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3175.5	3175.3	3155.8	0.2	19.7
UNEMPLOYMENT	147.1	163.0	179.9	-15.9	-32.8
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6	5.1	5.7	-0.5	-1.1
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3028.4	3012.3	2975.9	16.1	52.5
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2846.4	2868.8	2797.6	-22.4	48.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	2469.9	2459	2415.6	10.9	54.3
GOODS PRODUCING	666.9	656.4	651.7	10.5	15.2
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4.2	4.1	4.1	0.1	0.1
CONSTRUCTION	139	134.2	135.9	4.8	3.1
MANUFACTURING	523.7	518.1	511.7	5.6	12.0
Durable Goods	320.8	318.8	311.6	2.0	9.2
Nondurable Goods	202.9	199.3	200.1	3.6	2.8
SERVICE PRODUCING	2179.5	2212.4	2145.9	-32.9	33.6
TRADE	444.7	446.3	435.4	-1.6	9.3
Wholesale Trade	118.7	119.4	114.3	-0.7	4.4
Retail Trade	326	326.9	321.1	-0.9	4.9
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	105.4	108.1	105.6	-2.7	-0.2
Utilities	12.4	12.1	11.7	0.3	0.7
Information	48.2	48.6	50.2	-0.4	-2.0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	161.6	161	159	0.6	2.6
Finance and Insurance	131.9	131.2	130.2	0.7	1.7
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29.7	29.8	28.8	-0.1	0.9
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	266.3	262.5	249.4	3.8	16.9
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	89.9	89.3	88.6	0.6	1.3
Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises	38.6	38.8	38.4	-0.2	0.2
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	137.8	134.4	122.4	3.4	15.4
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	375.8	373.8	364.9	2.0	10.9
Educational Services	44.9	45.2	43.7	-0.3	1.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	330.9	328.6	321.2	2.3	9.7
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	272.2	270.6	267.9	1.6	4.3
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	46.2	44.9	44.8	1.3	1.4
Accommodation & Food Services	226	225.7	223.1	0.3	2.9
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	128.8	131.7	131.5	-2.9	-2.7
GOVERNMENT	376.5	409.8	382	-33.3	-5.5
Federal Government	29.5	29.5	30.1	0.0	-0.6
State Government	88.5	90.1	91	-1.6	-2.5
Local Government	258.5	290.2	260.9	-31.7	-2.4
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	-0.5
(1) Includes L-M Disputes					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3108.6	3117.0	3089.9	-8.4	18.7
UNEMPLOYMENT	145.3	155.1	177.7	-9.8	-32.4
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.7	5.0	5.8	-0.3	-1.1
EMPLOYMENT	2963.2	2961.9	2912.2	1.3	51.0
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2839.2	2832.2	2791.8	7.0	47.4

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information